

# Extending the application of Aboriginal names to Australian biota: *Dasyurus* (Marsupialia: Dasyuridae) species

Ian Abbott

1 Caddy Avenue, West Leederville, Western Australia 6007 and Science Division, Department of Environment and Conservation, Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, Western Australia 6983

## Abstract

The four Australian species of *Dasyurus* currently possess linguistically or geographically inappropriate vernacular names (Western Quoll *D. geoffroii*; Northern Quoll *D. hallucatus*; Spotted-tailed Quoll *D. maculatus*; and Eastern Quoll *D. viverrinus*). The Western Quoll originally occurred extensively in eastern Australia, the Eastern Quoll originally occurred only in south-eastern Australia (including Tasmania), and the Aboriginal name 'quoll' strictly refers to *D. hallucatus* in north Queensland. A search of anthropological, zoological, and newspaper sources has revealed >400 names (including duplications) used by Aborigines, with most being readily assignable to a particular species. It is recommended that an Aboriginal name for each species be selected and used consistently by zoologists and conservation agencies, namely Chuditch (*D. geoffroii*); Digul (*D. hallucatus*); Bindjulang (*D. maculatus*); and Luaner (*D. viverrinus*). The rationale for selecting these names is explained. (*The Victorian Naturalist* 130 (3) 2013, 109-126)

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## Introduction

The three smaller and the largest of the four *Dasyurus* species occurring in Australia were for many years known by the public and zoologists as native cats and Tiger Cat, respectively; see Table 1 (Ramson 1988). This comparison is both inappropriate and inaccurate, as cats (Eutheria: Felidae) are unrelated to quolls (Marsupialia: Dasyuridae). Fleay (1963) advocated for an Aboriginal word 'quoll' to replace these terms. However, it was not until the 1980s that quoll supplanted the comparison with cats (Strahan 1980; Strahan 1983). Quoll, however, is a corruption of 'Je-Quoll' recorded by Joseph Banks in 1770 at Endeavour River in northern Queensland (Beaglehole 1962), and can be referred unambiguously to *D. hallucatus*.

Quoll is currently used as a general vernacular name but preceded by the adjectival qualifiers 'western', 'northern', 'spotted-tailed', and 'eastern' to distinguish the four species (Table 1). However, Chuditch is now widely used in Western Australia for *D. geoffroii*. The diversity of indigenous names for Australian fauna is poorly known or understood by most non-Aboriginal Australians. It is therefore not unexpected that some zoologists are oblivious or indifferent to the existence of Aboriginal names for animal species, and show passive resistance to their modern use. This is evidenced by the limited

adoption of Aboriginal names for rodent species, despite the presentation of a well-argued case by Braithwaite *et al.* (1995).

This paper is a collation of information from scientific, philological and anthropological sources scattered across numerous books and journal articles. This has not been performed for curiosity's sake but to argue that suitable Aboriginal names could replace the vernacular names in current use. Although vernacular names are not necessary for zoologists to use in scientific papers, an essential dimension of modern research is the communication of the outcomes of scientific studies to the interested public. Appropriate vernacular names facilitate this important process.

## Methods

Names for Australian *Dasyurus* species were recorded as a byproduct of extensive reading of historical sources for other purposes. These sources include colonial books about Australia (published before 1900), accounts of the customs and ecology of Aboriginal people recorded by pioneer settlers and other interested people, searches of state-based science journals (published by Royal and other Societies and museums in Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and West-

Table 1. Chronology of vernacular names used by scientists for *Dasyurus* species, 1837–2008.

Reference	<i>viverrinus</i>	<i>hallucatus</i>	<i>geoffroii</i>	<i>maculatus</i>
Bennett 1837	Mauge's opossum			
Waterhouse nd	Mauge's dasyurus		Geoffroy's dasyurus	Spotted-tailed dasyurus
Waterhouse 1846	Viverrine dasyurus	North Australian dasyurus	Geoffroy's dasyurus	Spotted-tailed dasyurus
Gould 1863	Variable dasyurus	North Australian dasyurus	Geoffroy's dasyurus	Spotted-tailed dasyurus
Kreffit 1864	Variable dasyurus or native cat		Geoffroy's dasyurus	Spotted-tailed dasyurus
Kreffit 1871	Viverrine dasyurus	North Australian dasyure	Geoffroy's dasyurus	Spotted-tailed dasyurus
Forbes-Leith and Lucas 1885	Native cat		Geoffroy's dasyurus	Tiger cat
Thomas 1888	Common dasyure	North-Australian dasyure	Black-tailed dasyure	Spotted-tailed dasyure
Ogilby 1892	Common native cat	North-Australian native cat	Black-tailed native cat	Spotted-tailed native cat
Lydekker 1896	Common dasyure	North Australian dasyure	Black-tailed dasyure	Spotted-tailed dasyure
Lucas & Le Souëf 1909	Common native cat	North Australian native cat	Geoffroy's native cat	Spotted-tailed native cat
Wood Jones 1923	Native cat/ common native cat		Black-tailed/ Geoffroy's native cat	Tiger cat/ spotted-tailed native cat
Lord and Scott 1924	Native cat			Tiger cat
Le Souëf and Burrell 1926	Viverrine native cat	North Australian native cat	Geoffroy's native cat	Spotted-tailed tiger-cat
Iredale and Troughton 1934	Common native cat	Little northern native cat	Black-tailed native cat	Spotted-tailed native cat
Troughton 1941	Eastern native cat	Little northern native cat	Western native cat	Tiger cat/spotted-tailed native cat
Marlow 1958	Eastern native cat		Western native cat	Tiger cat
Calaby 1966				Tiger-cat
Ride 1970	Quoll/eastern native-cat	Satanellus/little northern native-cat	Chuditch/western native-cat	Tiger cat
Calaby and Keith 1974		Northern native-cat		
Strahan 1980	Eastern quoll	Northern quoll	Western quoll	Tiger quoll
Walton 1988	Eastern quoll	Northern quoll	Western quoll	Tiger quoll
Strahan 1983	Eastern quoll	Northern quoll	Western quoll	Spotted-tailed quoll
Strahan 1995	Eastern quoll	Northern quoll	Western quoll	Spotted-tailed quoll
Menkhorst 1995	Eastern quoll		Western quoll	Spot-tailed quoll
Van Dyck and Strahan 2008	Eastern quoll	Northern quoll	Western quoll	Spotted-tailed quoll

ern Australia), records by zoologists (including Gerard Krefft, Baldwin Spencer, Hedley Finlayson and Andrew Burbidge), detailed compilations of Aboriginal languages by linguists, syntheses (Plomley 1976), and searches by David Peacock of Australian newspapers and magazines published during the period 1804–1954 and available at the National Library of Australia website (<http://trove.nla.gov.au>).

All records found were tabulated. Tindale (1974) was used to link obsolete tribal names to modern names so that records could be mapped. Although the names of Aboriginal tribes by convention commence with a capital letter, Aboriginal names for animals are nowadays written in lower case in contrast to early chroniclers. This is an editorial practice that differs from most science journals, in which

common names of Australian animals usually commence with a capital letter. I have recorded the name exactly as it was spelled, written and articulated with respect to syllabic structure in the original document, even if these are known to distort their linguistic integrity. Where it has been uncertain as to which *Dasyurus* species was being referred to in the original source, I have indicated this in Table 1, sometimes conjecturing the probable identity of the species.

## Results

More than 400 Aboriginal names were discovered (Table 2; Fig. 1), of which only a small number represent duplication of names cited from earlier publications. These comprise 182 names for *D. geoffroii*, 112 names for *D. viverrinus*, 85 names for *D. hallucatus*, and 30 names for *D. maculatus*.

## Discussion

When the 63 names for *D. geoffroii* listed by Abbott (2001) for south-west WA are added, these totals increase to >470 (all species) and 245 (*D. geoffroii*). The most widespread *Dasyurus* species has the greatest number of recorded names, as expected.

The application of Aboriginal names to Australian mammals has proceeded in fits and starts during the preceding 150 years: a total of 5 names provided (Gould 1863); 3 names (Kreffit 1864); 3 names (Lucas and Le Souéf 1909); 6 names (Le Souéf and Burrell 1926); 10 names (Iredale and Troughton 1934); 11 names (Troughton 1941); 12 names (Troughton 1967); 27 names (Ride 1970); 13 names (Strahan 1983); 13 names (Strahan 1995); and 17 names (Van Dyck and Strahan 2008)<sup>1</sup>. This process has thus been desultory. This is surprising, as many vernacular names in former and current use have major shortcomings (Table 3). Their deliberate replacement with Aboriginal names could be viewed as focused, strategic, and sensitive to Aboriginal culture.

Of the 500-800 dialects belonging to c. 250 distinct Aboriginal languages that existed in Australia at the time of European settlement (Howie-Willis 1994), most are now extinct. Of the 90 that survive, only 20 are in a 'relatively healthy state' (Schmidt 1990). Many Aboriginal names of mammals were not recorded and

have therefore been lost. This is illustrated by comparing the distribution of the location of Aboriginal names depicted in Fig. 1 with the original geographical range of each *Dasyurus* species. Blanks indicate where no records of Aboriginal names have been found.

Globally, many common names of mammals (as designated by the Oxford English Dictionary) have originated either from first nations, for example pika (Siberia), yak (Tibet), pangolin and orang-utan (Malaya), cheetah (Hindu), zebra and chimpanzee (Congo), tenrec (Madagascar), skunk and kinkajou (North America), puma, tapir and coypu (South America), and kangaroo (north-east Australia), or from their European conquerors, for example sheep (Anglo-Saxon), springbok (Cape Dutch), armadillo (Spanish) and hippopotamus (Greek). Some names are a translation of the scientific name (e.g. Spectacled Hare-wallaby, Smoky Mouse) or represent disused generic names (echidna, Platypus). It is unsurprising that visitors or settlers would ask first peoples for names of species that are conspicuous, dangerous or of culinary value.

However, not all indigenous names for Australian mammals, have been adopted into common usage. The Aboriginal names koala, wombat, bettong, potoroo, wallaby, wallaroo, pademelon and dingo are from the Sydney district and were recorded soon after settlement by Europeans in 1788 (Ramson 1988). Inexplicably, Aboriginal names for other conspicuous species present around Sydney were either not recorded (e.g. most species of gliders) or have failed to come into general usage (e.g. possums). John Gould promoted the continued use of koala, wombat, wallaby, kangaroo, wallaroo, pademelon and dingo, either alone or in combination, but introduced only one previously unused Aboriginal name, Parma Wallaby (Gould 1863). Most of his vernacular names are English translations of part of the Latin binomial, usually with the generic name retained untranslated (Gould 1863). Collectors from mainland Europe active in the late 1800s or early 1900s (such as Lumholtz, Collett and Dahl) recorded Aboriginal names of some mammal species (Troughton 1941). These names continue to be overlooked.

**Table 2.** Aboriginal names of *Dasyurus* species, classified by species, jurisdiction, and language group. Listing is approximately from north to south, coastal to inland. Abbreviations: NSW = New South Wales; NT = Northern Territory; QLD = Queensland; SA = South Australia; TAS = Tasmania; VIC = Victoria; WA = Western Australia.

Language group/locality	Aboriginal name	Reference
<i>Dasyurus geoffroi</i>		
Wunambal WA	dada (identification uncertain)	Mangglamarra <i>et al.</i> 1991
North Kimberley WA	daada (identification uncertain)	Karadara <i>et al.</i> 2011
Karatjari WA	parrtjita	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Ngaanyatjarra WA	kurninningka/kuninningka, parrtjarta	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Ngaatjatjarra WA	kurninningka/kuninningka, mulyutjilira, parrtjarta	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Nyangamarta WA	parrtjarta, walyparti	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Anna Plains to Warrawagine, Bidadanga (La Grange) WA	pirtawarnku (? <i>D. hallucatus</i> )	McKelson and Dodd 2007: 162
Warnman WA	parrtjarta, walyparti	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Warnman WA	winyminyji	Anon 1991: 47
Manytjilytjarra WA	kinkilpa, kitjikurna, kurninningka, ngal-ngal, parrtjarta, walyparti, wiminytji	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Mangala WA	kingkin, ngarl-ngarl, parrtjita, tjatjirti, walyparti	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Ngaanayatjarra and Ngaatjatjarra WA	kurninka, nyurlpa, parrtjarta [most commonly used]	Glass and Hackett 2003: 625
Walmatjari WA	ngarl-ngarl, parrtjita, walyparti	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Walmatjari WA	ngaingal, parrtjita	Hudson 1978: 100
Walmajarri [south of Fitzroy Crossing, west of Balgo] WA	ngarlngarl	Richards and Hudson 1990: 344
Walmajarri WA	Ngarlngarl, Parrtjita [misidentified as <i>D. hallucatus</i> ]	Gleadell <i>et al.</i> 1999
Yulparrja WA	walyparti	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Yulparija [La Grange] WA	tarnpa	Anon 2006: 70–71
Tjaru WA	kurninningka, parrtjarta	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Wangkatjungka WA	kurninningka, ngangnalpa, ngarl-ngarl, parrtjita, walyparti, wirrminitji	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Kartutjarra WA	kinkilpa, kitjikurna, kurninningka, parrtjarta/parrtjita, walyparti, wiminytji	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Putitjarra WA	kinkilpa, kitjikurna, kurninningka, parrtjarta, walyparti	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Warburton region WA	Parrtjarta	Burbidge and Fuller 1979
Warburton Ranges district WA	parrtjarta	Douglas 1977, 1988: 145
Niyapala WA	ngur-ngur	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Jigalong WA	tarnpa	Marsh 1992: 310
Ashburton/North West Cape/North Gascoyne district WA	Teboola, Kerooda	Yabaroo 1899
Gascoyne Junction WA	Terero	Alexander 1920
Eastern shore of Shark Bay WA	Tin-do-kat	A Oldfield 1865 (see Abbott 2001)
Doodambarrang (Murchison MD) WA	Baljeerda	Bates nd 55/122–139
Northampton WA	Tither goo	Bates nd 57/106–107
Kookynie WA	Gnooloo	Bates nd 58/74
Perth district WA	badjada (many spelling variants cited)	Abbott 2001
Avon Valley WA	baradjit (many spelling variants cited)	Abbott 2001, 2008
Pinjarrah WA	Bar-ra-jid-die	EAA Fawcett in Bates nd 43/97
Harvey WA	gugle	<i>The Sunday Times</i> 16 May 1926: 8s

Table 2. continued.

Language group/locality	Aboriginal name	Reference
Vasse district WA	ngooldjangit (many spelling variants cited)	Abbott 2001
Albany district WA	djoodyitj (many spelling variants cited)	Abbott 2001, 2008
Mirning WA/SA	tjalpatu	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Daly Waters district NT	minidja (? <i>D. hallucatus</i> )	Chadwick 1975
Tjinkili NT	tjapurti	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Tanami Desert NT	Jajirdi, Kurninka, Parrjarda, Yatikarra karrkanju	Gibson 1986: 125
Warramunga NT	Winnijungoo	Finlayson 1961
Kaititja NT	tjatjirti	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Anmatjara NT	atjilpa	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Eastern Anmatyerr communities NT	atyelp, atyet atyyet	Green 2010: 669
Warlpiri NT/WA	kurninningka, parrtjarta, parrtjita, tjatjirti, wirl-wirlki	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Walpiri NT	jajirdi	Johnson and Roff 1982
Wailbri NT	tjatjirda, kurnika, parrtjirda; minitja and ngaya [west Wailbri]	Reece 1979: 27
Kukatja NT	kurninningka, maularuru, ngangnalpa, parrtjita, tjatjirti, walyparti, wiminytji/wimitji, wirrminitji	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Kukatja NT/SA	Tajadi (widely used)	Finlayson 1961
Pintupi NT/WA	kunatjilira, kurninningka/kuninngka, mulyutjilira, parrtjarta, tjatjirti, walyparti, wiminytji/wimitji, wirrminytji	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Pintupi/Luritja WA/NT	ngaya, nyumpunypa, wiika, wiilyka, wilpinpa	Hansen and Hansen 1992: 216
Pintupi NT	jajirdi	Johnson and Roff 1982
Ilyowra tribe NT	Achilpa	Finlayson 1961
Alyawarr NT	atyelp	Green 1992: 282
Alyawarra NT	tjilpa	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Arrernte/ Alice Springs district NT	Achilpa	Calaby 1996
Alice Springs district NT	chilperta	Spencer 1896: 7 (footnote), Spencer 1897
Charlotte Waters and Coonincher NT	chilpa	Mulvaney 2000: 90
Arrernte/Alice Springs district NT	achilpa	Mulvaney 2000: 304
Aranda NT	tjilpa	Johnson and Roff 1982
Pitjantjatjara NT	parrtjarta	Johnson and Roff 1982
Arrernte NT	achilpa, chilpa; atyelp	Mulvaney <i>et al.</i> 1997: 489
Alice Springs region NT	Ooraminna	<i>The Register</i> 6 June 1925: 9
Arrernte NT	atyelp	Henderson and Dobson 1994: 656
Upper and Middle Finke River NT	Lukaringa (sp?: 'a kind of cat')	Schulze 1891: 216
Aranta, western NT	tjilpa	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Aranta, eastern NT	atjilpa	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Arunta NT/SA	Achilpa (widely used)	Finlayson 1961
Luritja NT	kurninningka	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Mutpura NT	tjapurti	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
SA [error for NT]	Achilpa	<i>The Australian Women's Weekly</i> 16 February 1975: 34
Pitjantjatjara NT/WA	kurninningka/kuninngka, parrtjarta	Burbidge <i>et al.</i> 1988
Pitjanjara NT/SA	Pulchida (Partjada)	Finlayson 1961
Pitjantjatjara NT/SA/WA and Yankunytjatjara NT/SA	partjata, kuninka	Goddard 1996: 301
Wonkanooroo NT/SA	Yikowra	Finlayson 1961
Yankunjarra SA	Keenika	Finlayson 1961
Musgrave Ranges SA	Pulchida	Tonkin 2001: 127

Table 2. continued.

Language group/locality	Aboriginal name	Reference
Pipalyatjara, north-western SA	parrtjarta	Copley <i>et al.</i> 1989
Dieri tribe [Killapaninna] SA	jikaura	Reuther nd
Dieri tribe SA	Tikanara	Howitt 1891
Dieri tribe SA	'jikaura	Berndt and Vogelsang 1941
Dieyerie tribe [Mt Freeling, Pirigundi Lake, Lake Hope, 80 miles W of Lake Hope] SA	Kooraltha ['Spotted ferret']	Gason 1879: 285
Dieri tribe SA	Yikaura, Pira-moku	Howitt 1904: 91, 783
Ngameni tribe [N of Lake Eyre] SA	Yikaura	Howitt 1904: 94
Yaurorka tribe [NE of Lake Eyre] SA	Yikaura	Howitt 1904: 95
Northern Flinders Ranges SA	idnya	Tunbridge 1991
Adnamatana [Lake Frome and northern Flinders Range] SA	idna	McEntee 1991
Ngadjuri tribe SA	'aku'indji	Berndt and Vogelsang 1941
Thangkaali [Morgan and Renmark district] SA	pityiya, pityuku	Hercus 1993
Barngarla [Eyre Peninsula] SA	idnya	Tunbridge 1991
Port Lincoln district, SA	Ead-nar	Harvey 1840
Parnkalla language [Port Lincoln] SA	idnya, idnya yappaityappaitya	Schürmann 1844
Western coast [?Yalata, ?Tarcoola, ?Ooldea, ?Fowlers Bay, ?Boundary Dam] SA	bardjurda	Bates 1918
Ooldea Well west to SA/WA border	moolgoo	Bates 1929
Gayndah district QLD	Gumben (? <i>D. hallucatus</i> )	Semon 1899: 168
Mooraberrie station, c. 130 miles west of Windorah QLD	Winjella	Duncan-Kemp 1968: 319
Margany [Eulo district] QLD	Dambudu	Breen 1981a: 364
Pitta Pitta [Boulia district] QLD	ik-oo-ur-ra	Roth 1897
Nyeri Nyeri, Mondellimin [Chaffey Landing, Merbein] NSW	Kettrie	Kreffit 1866, Kean 2009
Bourke NSW to Cunnamulla QLD	burbur	<i>The Brisbane Courier</i> 12 January 1931: 12
Darling River NSW	Kinyah	Palmer 1884
Ngeumba tribe [Brewarrina, Bogan River, Nyngan, Cobar, Byrock] NSW	búbbilla	Mathews 1904c
North-west VIC	Beridyul (? <i>D. maculatus</i> )	<i>The Australian Women's Weekly</i> 16 February 1975: 34
<b><i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i></b>		
Pelá (Kuini, Kalúmburu) WA	Pángüidji	de Galdeano 2005: 16
Wunambal WA	wijingarri	Mangglamarra <i>et al.</i> 1991
Wunambal Gaambera WA	wijingarri (Wunambal), bangajii (Gaambera)	Karadara <i>et al.</i> 2011
Worora WA	widjingara	Lucich 1969
Ashburton MD WA	Dheebooga, Thindooga, andoola (? <i>D. geoffroii</i> )	Bates nd 48/96–129, 48/149–189
Yinhawangka [inland Ashburton region and upper plateau of Hamersley Range] WA	wayinwarra, ngawungawu (? <i>D. geoffroii</i> )	Anon 2008: 69
Thalanyji [near North West Cape] WA	kuruwanyji, maawu	Austin 1992a: 41
Payungu [Lyndon River district] WA	kankuriri, kuruwanyji	Austin 1992b: 60
Nyamal [east of Marble Bar] WA	ngawungawau (? <i>D. geoffroii</i> )	Burgman 2007: 40
Kurruma [Hamersley Range] WA	ngawungawungka (? <i>D. geoffroii</i> )	Burgman 2006: 51
Panyjima (Hamersley Range] WA	yirrywarra (? <i>D. geoffroii</i> )	Dench 1991: 228
Martu Wangka [Jigalong, Newman, Nullagine] WA	tarnpa	Burgman 2005: 133
Mary River NT	dirdatj, gitjbi damban	Harvey 2001: 169
Port Essington NT	Ar-ri-wal	Fisher and Calaby 2009: 56
Maung [mainland opposite Goulburn Island] NT	ngindargbug	Capell and Hinch 1970: 183

Table 2. continued.

Language group/locality	Aboriginal name	Reference
Katji, SW of Derby Creek NT	barkuma, boro bun pun bugunun, nyuluk nyuluk, burra bun pun bugulung	Dixon and Huxley 1985: 37
Derby Creek NT	luyupo luyupo, luthupo luthupo, barkuma	Dixon and Huxley 1985: 39
Caledon Bay NT	Barkuma	Dixon and Huxley 1985: 39
Larrakia NT	luali	Finlayson 1961
Alowa NT	wannumbeera	Finlayson 1961
Allawa NT	wanambira	Tindale 1928: 19
Mara NT	manambira	Tindale 1928: 19
Mara NT	woonyaboonya	Finlayson 1961
Djapu [NE Arnhem Land] NT	barkuma	Morphy 1983: 173
Nungubuyu tribe [near Numbulwar mission, Arnhem Land] NT	Wara, Wulambag	Heath 1982: 315
Leeanuwa [Roper, Limmen, McArthur, Robinson, Calvert Rivers, Borroloola] NT	rarlanboo	Stretton 1893: 251
Rittarungo NT	ranyuluk	Tindale 1928: 18
Rembarunga NT	kachurwumbana	Tindale 1928: 18
Ngandi NT	adangidangin	Tindale 1928: 18
Ngalakan NT	nyolok	Tindale 1928: 19
Wandaran NT	akaburunguna	Tindale 1928: 19
Nungubuyu NT	orulambaj	Tindale 1928: 19
Anindilyakwa, Groote Eylandt NT	yiniyerruwena	Waddy 1988: 58
Mpakwithi [Duyfken Point] QLD	gya	Crowley 1981: 190
Wik-Mungken [Kendall River district] QLD	ku'waak, thoonth-waak	Kilham <i>et al.</i> 1986
Cape Keerweer QLD	ku'-waak, thoonth ago	Sutton 1995: 148 Hey 1903
Nggerikudi tribe (Cullen Point, Duyfken Point] QLD		
Yir-Yoront [mouths of Mitchell River, Cape York peninsula] QLD	Minh-thiq	Alpher 1991: 743
Gilbert River [Gulf of Carpentaria] QLD	bamboorah	Palmer 1884
Mayi-Kulan tribe [Norman River district] QLD	tjikata, mitjipendan	Breen 1981b: 152
Koogobathe tribe, [Koogominny, Mitchell River] QLD	il pair	Palmer 1884
Mycooloon tribe [Flinders River, Saxby River] QLD	jiggerdah	Palmer 1884
Gugu-Yalanji & Wik-Munken [Bloomfield River] QLD	waygul, waykal	Oates <i>et al.</i> 1964, Oates 1992: 46
Cape York QLD	kute [accent on first vowel]	MacGillivray 1852: 282
Uradhi [Cape York peninsula] QLD	Atamudi [Jackson River], angkata [Port Musgrave], uyaba [Jardine River]	Crowley 1983: 418
Guugu Yimidhirr [Cooktown, Jeannie River, Battle Camp district] QLD	dhigul	Haviland 1979: 173
Koko-Yimidir tribe (Annan and Endeavour Rivers, Cape Flattery] QLD	quoll, dekol	Roth 1901
Cooktown QLD	quoll	Phillips 1898
Endeavour River QLD	Je-Quoll	Beaglehole 1962: 117
Endeavour River QLD	taquol, jaquol, quoll, je-quoll (from Cook's voyage in 1770); dekol, dhigul (recorded 1901 and 1970s, respectively)	Mahoney and Ride 1984
-	Quoll (First use in modern times; in an advertisement)	<i>The Mercury</i> 9 May 1924: 10, <i>The West Australian</i> 13 May 1924: 11
Gogo-Yimidir [Hopevale Mission, Cooktown district] QLD	digul	de Zwaen 1969

Contributions

Table 2. continued.

Language group/locality	Aboriginal name	Reference
Atherton district [west of Great Dividing Range] QLD	diguy	Dixon 1991a: 394
Wakoorra tribe [Mt Mulligan district, Cairns] QLD	Wyka	Richards 1926
Cape Cleveland district QLD	Moongun ?sp: 'opossum, or wild cat'	Morrill 1863
Rockhampton district QLD	Wycarbah	<i>Morning Bulletin</i> 30 March 1950: 2
Gurang Gurang tribe [upper Burnett River] QLD	kinyi	Mathew 1914
Wakka Wakka tribe [Walla, Burnett River/Dawson River interfluve, Maranoa boundary, Darling Downs (part), Nanango] QLD	indyun	Mathew 1928
Goonine tribe [Lower Burnett River, Wide Bay] QLD	Ginying	Palmer 1884
Duungidjawan [SE Queensland and Brisbane River] QLD	ynjdjun	Kite and Wurm 2004: 286
<b><i>Dasyurus maculatus</i></b>		
Gugu-Yalanji and Wik-Munken [Bloomfield River] QLD	junarr	Oates <i>et al.</i> 1964
?Cairns district QLD	Yar-rey	<i>Cairns Post</i> 8 April 1918: 3
Herbert Vale QLD	Jarri	Collett 1887
Yidiny [Cairns-Yarrabah region] QLD	maybu	Dixon 1991b: 153
?Brisbane QLD	Witgee	<i>The Brisbane Courier</i> 14 December 1932: 15
South-east QLD	Milbur, Yuruthin	<i>The Australian Women's Weekly</i> 16 February 1975: 34
Brisbane district QLD	mibur	Petrie 1904: 89
Ipswich to Brisbane, Beaudesert to Pimpana and Moreton Bay Qld	Bungym	<i>The Queenslander</i> 27 December 1890: 1218
Yaggara tribe [Brisbane-Ipswich] QLD	Bundsim	Lauterer 1895
Ucumble NSW	Murroe (?sp) 'Large sort of Weasel'	Wyndham 1890
Wiradjuri tribe NSW	mirradhi	Grant and Rudder 2005: 344
Awabakal tribe [Lake Macquarie] NSW	Babbilla (?sp)	Fraser 1892
Sydney district NSW	Mer-ri-e-gang	Smith and Wheeler 1988: 158
Ngarrugu tribe [Queanbeyan, Cooma, Bombala, Delegate] NSW	gúndarang	Mathews 1908
Gippsland VIC	Bindhalang	<i>The Australian Women's Weekly</i> 16 February 1975: 34
Lake Tyers district, Gippsland VIC	Bindhalang (bindjulang)	Smyth 1878 vol. 2: 38, Mansergh and Hercus 1981: 112
Southern Narigu [Orbost district] VIC	Bindjulung	Hercus 1969
Lake Boga VIC	Youern	Stone 1911: 449
Western district VIC	Womainte	Smyth 1878 vol. 1: 191
Counties of Hampden and Heytesbury [Camperdown district] VIC	Cabong	Smyth 1878 vol. 2: 185
Western district VIC	Neumarng, Wuumeniitch	Dawson 1881
Warrnambool district VIC	wumenatj, wumenayt	Blake 2003: 71
W-NW tribe TAS	laboibé, lunna	Plomley 1976
Oyster Bay TAS	luyenna, pungeranyah	Plomley 1976
Bruni Island-S tribe TAS	luyenna	Plomley 1976
<b><i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i></b>		
Clarence River NSW	Bandim	Crowley 1978
Kumbainggeri tribe [Nambucca, Grafton, inland to Great Dividing Range] NSW	Balandyim	Mathews 1910



Table 2. continued.

Language group/locality	Aboriginal name	Reference
Gumbaynggir tribe [Coffs Harbour, Glenn Innes, Wollombi district] NSW	baalijin, marra-marrawiny, waybalagundi	Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Cooperative 2001: 110 Crowley 1979: 382
Yaygir tribe [Evans Head and Coffs Harbour district] NSW	budjiga:n (sp?: 'cat')	
Kombinegherry tribe [Bellinger River] NSW	barlin gin	Palmer 1884
Thangatti tribe [Macleay River] NSW	duluñ	Mathews 1904c
Awabakal tribe [Lake Macquarie] NSW Sydney district, NSW	Kikoi Mer-re-a-gan (brown), Din-e-gow-a (black)	Fraser 1892: 53 Smith and Wheeler 1988: 162
Sydney district, NSW Illawarra district NSW	Me-rea-gine 'spotted rat' middhagoonee (? <i>D. maculatus</i> )	Collins 1798 vol. 1: 614 <i>The Brisbane Courier</i> 12 January 1931: 12 Mathews 1901, 1903a
Thurawal tribe [Port Hacking, Jarvis Bay and inland 'for a considerable distance'] NSW	wagara (yellow and white morph), wungar (black and white morph)	
Dharruk tribe [Port Hacking, Hawkesbury River, Windsor, Penrith, Campbelltown] NSW	bulungga (black and white morph), muraging (black and yellow morph)	Mathews 1901
Ngunawul tribe [E of Wiradyuri] NSW	muruguñ	Mathews 1904b
Wiradyuri tribe [Lachlan River, Macquarie River, Murrumbidgee River] NSW	mabi (black and white morph) dhalbirrang (yellow and white morph)	Mathews 1904b
Wiradjuri tribe NSW	mabi, babila, mugiiiny-mabi	Grant and Rudder 2005: 343
Anewan tribe [New England tableland, including Macdonald River, Walcha, Uralla, Bendemeer, Armidale, Hillgrove] NSW	kyura	Mathews 1903b
Yualeai [Bokhara, Birrie, Narran, Moonie Rivers] QLD/NSW	buggundi (black and white morph)	Mathews 1902b
Gamilaraay, Yuwaalaraay, Yuwaalayaay NSW	Bagandi	Ash <i>et al.</i> 2003: 189
Bangate station, Narran River district NSW	Buckandee	Parker 1905: 144
?	buckandee	<i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i> 1 June 1912: 8 Mathews 1902b
Kurnu [Darling River (Tilpa to Bourke), Barwon River, Paroo River, Queensland border] NSW	búnduli (black and white morph), kikunya (yellow and white)	
Kurnu [N of Bourke] NSW	puuntuli (black and white morph), kikunya	Hercus 1993
Kamilaroi tribe [Jerry's Plains, Walgett, Mungindi] NSW	muka [black and white morph]	Mathews 1903a
Ngarrabul tribe [Glen Innes, Bolivia, Wellingrove] NSW	Burr-gah ('spotted Bandicoot')	MacPherson ?1931
Ngarrugu tribe [Queanbeyan, Cooma, Bombala, Delegate] NSW	bindyellang	Mathews 1908
Wagga Wagga district NSW	Marbee	Smyth 1878 vol. 2: 219
Yorta Yorta tribe [Echuca, Cobram, Mooroopna, Shepparton district] VIC	banmetpa	Bowe and Morey 1999: 174
Yota-Yota [Murray River: Cobram, Echuca, Shepperton, Deniliquin] NSW, VIC	miya (black and white), burraty-ba (yellow and white)	Mathews 1902b
Madimadi [Murray River district] VIC	birigi	Hercus 1969
Wotjobaluk tribe [Lake Hamilton] VIC	Boam-berik, Boam	Howitt 1904: 121, 429
Wembawemba [Murray River district] VIC	beridj	Hercus 1969
Gippsland VIC	Brumbin	<i>The Australian Women's Weekly</i> 16 February 1975: 34

## Contributions

Table 2. continued.

Language group/locality	Aboriginal name	Reference
North-east VIC	Boamberik	<i>The Australian Women's Weekly</i> 16 February 1975: 34
Lake Tyers, Gippsland VIC	Brumbin (brambinj)	Smyth 1878 vol. 2: 38, Mansergh and Hercus 1981: 112
Central Gippsland VIC	Bindyallang (bindjulang)	Mansergh and Hercus 1981: 112
Brabirrawulung, Gippsland [Mitchell River to Tambo River] VIC	bindyallang	Mathews 1902a: 100
Yarra River VIC	Beathedel, Be' de dil	Smyth 1878 vol. 1: 191, vol. 2: 100
Yarra River VIC	Bededil, Bethedel	<i>The Australian Women's Weekly</i> 16 February 1975: 34
Wod-dow-ro tribe [Geelong district] VIC	Yourn, Bornong – resembles a cat	Cary 1898
Wathawurrung [Geelong-Ballarat] VIC	yurn	Blake <i>et al.</i> 1998: 99
Woiwurrung tribe [Melbourne district] VIC	yurn, bididil	Blake 1991: 85–86
Mort Noular [Melbourne] VIC	Urn, yurn	Smyth 1878 vol. 2: 124
Ballan, Loddon/Serpentine River junction, Mt Macedon, Pyrenees VIC	Yoorn	Smyth 1878 vol. 2: 159
Counties of Hampden and Heytesbury [Camperdown district] VIC	Woomenite	Smyth 1878 vol. 2: 185
Camperdown district VIC	Kowang	Smyth 1878 vol. 2: 213
Grange, Wannon River, western Vic	Cuppong	Clark 2000: 238
Dhauhurtwŭrru tribe [Portland, Lake Condah, Glenelg River, Gellibrand River and c. 75 km inland] VIC	Kuppong	Mathews 1904a
?Portland district VIC	Beerck	<i>Portland Guardian</i> 9 March 1953: 3
Daung wurrung [Goulburn River district] VIC	pairagnl	Wesson 1999
Melbourne north to Goulburn, Ovens, Broken and Devil Rivers, VIC	Urn, yurn	Smyth 1878 vol. 2: 124
Central VIC	Yoorn	<i>The Australian Women's Weekly</i> 16 February 1975: 34
Thagungwurrung [north of Great Dividing Range] VIC	yurn, birrigul	Blake 1991: 85–86
Jardwadjali [Glenelg River] VIC	birrik	Wesson 1999
Booandik [Glenelg River mouth, Beachport and c. 30 miles inland] VIC, SA	Kee	Smith 1880
Glenelg district (Apsley) VIC	Kiõtacha	Smyth 1878 vol. 2: 177
Clear Lake VIC	Beerak	Smyth 1878 vol. 2: 202
Bungandity [Mt Gambier, Glenelg River] SA, VIC	gih	Mathews 1903c
Lake Boga VIC	berrick	Stone 1911: 449
Lake Hindmarsh VIC	Berik (brown morph with white spots), Beridyul (black morph with white spots)	Smyth 1878 vol. 2: 54
Tyattyaalla tribe [Lakes Werringan and Albacutya, representative of west of a line joining Geelong, Bendigo, Pyramid Hill and Murray River] VIC	berik, nyammung	Mathews 1902a: 100
Western district VIC	Work, Wuulok, Meen (black morph with white spots); Porgormuum, Kuppung (brown morph with white spots)	Dawson 1881

Table 2. continued.

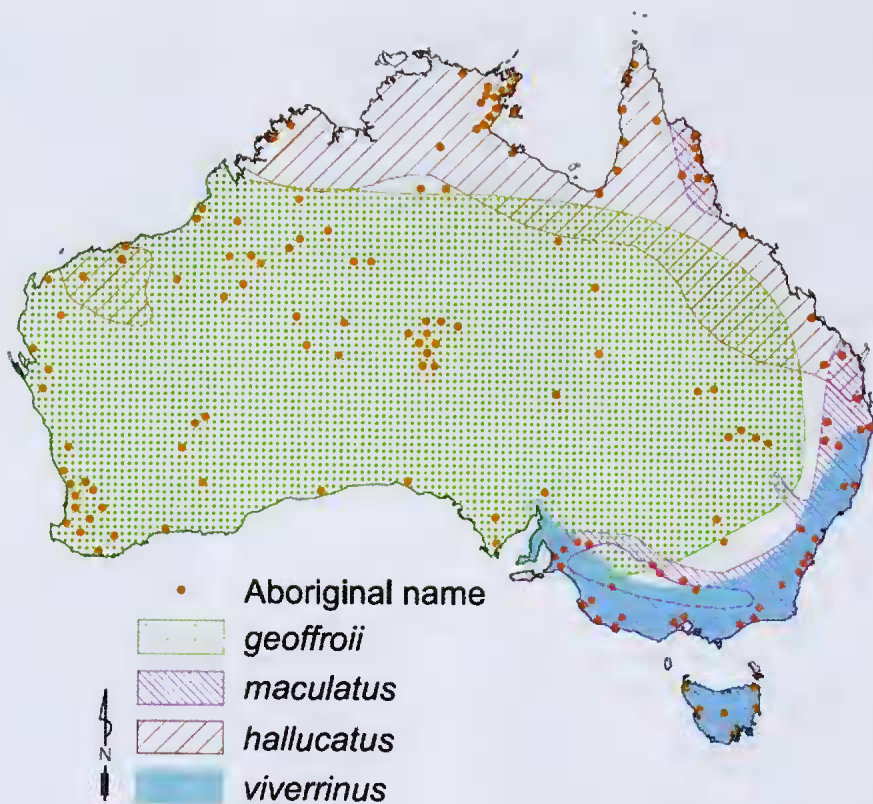
Language group/locality	Aboriginal name	Reference
VIC	Beerik (sp?)	Smyth 1878 vol. 2: 199, <i>The Australian Women's Weekly</i> 16 February 1975: 34
?VIC	Beereek	<i>The Argus</i> 9 February 1937: 16
W-NW tribe TAS	naboineenélé, labaggyna	Plomley 1976
W tribe TAS	neperana, noperena	Plomley 1976
Cape Portland TAS	pit.ter.ral.krore.rer	Plomley 1976
Oyster Bay TAS	lue.an.ner, luyennah, pringreenyah	Plomley 1976
E tribe TAS	largana	Plomley 1976
Big River/?Little River TAS	lu.a.ner	Plomley 1976
Bruny Island-S tribe TAS	lapuggana, lue.aye, lue.dy, poe.tac.he, roonah	Plomley 1976
Mt Gambier district SA	kiyi	Blake 2003: 65
Murray River SA	Ng'ruui Moch	Wood Jones 1923: 92
Narrinyeri [Wellington, Murray River, Milang, Meningie, Goolwa, Point Macleay] SA	Mikurri, Maikurri (? <i>D. geoffroi</i> )	Taplin 1879: 126
Kaurna/Adelaide SA	Mabo	Tunbridge 1991
Adelaide SA	mabu	Black 1920
Adelaide SA	Mayóo	Stephens 1889
Adelaide and Encounter Bay tribes SA	Mábo	Wyatt 1879: 171
Encounter Bay SA	Mabo	<i>The Australian Women's Weekly</i> 16 February 1975: 34

Much of the subsequent interest in resurrecting and using Aboriginal names has emanated from zoologists based in Western Australia. In 1928, WA Museum curator Ludwig Glauert published a list of Aboriginal mammal names from south-west WA (Glauert 1928). The intent was to popularise nature study, which was achieved by having this list published in newspapers circulating widely in WA (*The Daily News*; *The West Australian*; *The Western Mail*). Some of these names have remained in popular use by WA zoologists and naturalists (e.g. Serventy 1966).

Glauert's successor at the WA Museum, WDL Ride, continued the use of these names and attempted to popularise Aboriginal names for such other species as Karrabul, Boongary, Tcharibeena, Bobuck, Mongan, Toolah, Wintarro, Yallara, Kowari, Mulgara and Kultarr (Ride 1970). He succeeded with the last three. Michael Archer, formerly associated with the WA Museum, introduced the native name *Ningau* for a new genus of previously overlooked dasyurid species (Archer 1975). Ronald Strahan, formerly of WA, led a committee of the Australian Mammal Society that recommended the use of Aboriginal names which corresponded

to genera (Strahan 1980). This led to the names Kultarr, Kaluta and Mulgara superseding existing vernacular names. Andrew Burbidge and Per Christensen, zoologists active in WA from the 1970s, also consistently used Woylie, Numbat, Quokka and Chuditch in publications. The Aboriginal name Monjon was used from 1990 for the rock wallaby *Petrogale burbidgei* (scientifically undescribed until 1978). This favouring of Aboriginal names of mammals persists in WA in the regularly updated list of specially protected fauna published in the Government Gazette (Minister for the Environment 2012).

A strategic attempt to replace the Anglo-Saxon terms 'rat' and 'mouse' (Braithwaite *et al.* 1995) with short, euphonious Aboriginal names appears to be not generally accepted by zoologists, although several names, including Rakali (water rat *Hydromys chrysogaster*) and Djoongari (Shark Bay mouse *Pseudomys fieldi*), have appeared in scientific literature. Abbott (2001) suggested that the pioneer initiative of Glauert (1928) could be extended with confidence to other mammal species present in south-west WA. This has led to the use of Koomal (Common Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus vulpecula*) and Ngwayir (Western Ringtail Possum *Pseu-*



**Fig. 1.** Map of Australia showing the geographical distribution of the four species of *Dasyurus*, based on maps provided in Van Dyck and Strahan 2008, Long and Nelson 2010, and OZCAM 2012, and historical information (Peacock and Abbott, unpublished). The approximate location of Aboriginal names for *Dasyurus* species is also indicated.

*docheirus occidentalis*) in scientific publications. Zoologists in the Northern Territory are also adopting Aboriginal names, with Mala (Rufous Hare-wallaby *Lagorchestes hirsutus*) and Warru (Black-footed Rock-wallaby *Petrogale lateralis*) appearing in recent scientific papers.

I propose that this more liberal usage of Aboriginal names be continued, and applied to the four species that comprise *Dasyurus* in Australia. I recommend that the Aboriginal (Guugu Yimithirr) name recorded at Endeavour River, Queensland for *D. hallucatus* be used. 'Quoll' is a corrupted version of this name and has been misapplied to all four species; it would cause confusion to restrict this to *D. hallucatus*. However, when correctly spelled (as Digul) it seems

most suitable because the word is short, euphonic, and easily pronounced.

The Aboriginal (Noongar) name Chuditch for *D. geoffroii* is in widespread use in WA, where this species is now restricted. Future translocations into its former geographical range in eastern Australia will obviously be sourced from south-west WA. I support the continued use of this Noongar name.

*D. viverrinus* is now extinct on mainland Australia, and persists only in Tasmania, including on Bruny Island (Abbott and Burbidge 1995). Future attempts to repatriate this species to mainland Australia will obviously be sourced from Tasmania. I therefore propose that a Tasmanian Aboriginal name be used. Of the

**Table 3.** Shortcomings identified with obsolete (shown with a strike-through) and current vernacular names for Australian mammal species.

Category	Examples
Obsolete (preoccupied) genus name	Echidna (1798 for mammal, 1788 for eel), platypus (1799 for mammal, 1793 for beetle)
Anglicisation of genus name	Thylacine
English translation of genus name	Pig-footed ( <i>Chaeropus</i> ), hairy-nosed ( <i>Lasiorhinus</i> )
Absurd, fantastical, or contrived formation	Devil, rat-kangaroo, kangaroo-rat, hare kangaroo, hare-wallaby, rabbit-bandicoot, rabbit-rat, ghost bat, flying-fox, dormouse-opossum, jerboa rat, jerboa kangaroo, hare kangaroo, flying opossum, flying phalanger, flying opossum, kangaroo-mouse
Duplication of genus name	Phascogale, antechinus, false antechinus, pseudantechinus, echymipera, planigale, myotis, melomys
Phylogenetic incorrectness	Marsupial mole, bandicoot, possum, native bear, pouched mouse
polysyllabic	Southern hairy-nosed wombat, spotted-tailed quoll, desert rat-kangaroo, Lumholtz's tree kangaroo, black-footed rock-wallaby, eastern tube-nosed bat, golden-backed tree-rat, Mitchell's hopping-mouse*
Unwarranted presumption of superiority of non-Aboriginal names over Aboriginal names	Bat**, rat, mouse
Incorrect application of indigenous names from outside Australia	Bandicoot [Telugu], (o)possum [Algonquin]
Use of English eponym (disregarding pre-existing Aboriginal names)	Bennett's tree kangaroo, Gilbert's potoroo, Rothschild's rock-wallaby*
Duplication: English translation of part of Latin binomial	Rufous ( <i>Aepyprymnus</i> , <i>Echymipera</i> ), yellow-footed ( <i>Antechinus</i> ), agile ( <i>Antechinus</i> , <i>Macropus</i> ), golden ( <i>Isoodon</i> ), desert ( <i>Perameles</i> ), spectacled ( <i>Lagorchestes</i> ), banded ( <i>Lagostrophus</i> , <i>Myrmecobius</i> ), red ( <i>Macropus</i> )*

\*not a complete list of examples.

\*\*Aborigines did not separately identify species of microbat (Finlayson 1939, Osborne 1974, Plomley 1976, Waddy 1988, Burbidge *et al.* 1988, Mangglamarra *et al.* 1991, Baker *et al.* 1993, Abbott 2001) but some tribes distinguished the ghost bat and species of fruit bats (Osborne 1974, Waddy 1988, Tunbridge 1991, Mangglamarra *et al.* 1991).

names available, I suggest Luaner. Although the possibility exists that this name may also have been applied to *D. maculatus* (Plomley 1976), the restriction to *D. viverrinus* is attested by GA Robinson, who had an unequalled involvement with Aborigines in Tasmania, travelling in total for 86 months with them in the bush during the period 1829-34 (Plomley 1966).

*D. maculatus* remains widespread within its original geographical range. On the basis of brevity, euphony and ease of pronunciation, I recommend Bindjulung.

Although Aboriginal names clearly misattributed to *Dasyurus* species (as in Johnston 1943) have been excluded from Table 2, a few erroneous, doubtful or misunderstood names may have been recorded inadvertently. Aboriginal protectors, anthropologists and linguists are

unlikely to be fully knowledgeable about mammal species, and zoologists are unlikely to be fluent in Aboriginal languages. This difficulty of cross-cultural communication is nicely illustrated by the incorrect use of the Victorian Aboriginal name Tuan for *Phascogale tapoat-afa* instead of *Acrobates pygmaeus* or *Petaurus breviceps* (Conole 1987, Hercus 1988, Scarlett 1988). The name Mongon (Morrill 1863) is usually thought to apply to the possum *Pseudocheirus herbertensis*, but Troughton (1941: 112) indicates that this name is not the correct one for this species. Thus, Mongon could apply to *D. hallucatus*.

An unexpected finding for this paper was the paucity of citations found in newspapers, with only 13 located (D. Peacock, pers. comm. 2012). One magazine, however, yielded 17 names (five

of which were too vague to use in this paper) in an article by the anthropologist Aldo Mascola promoting the appreciation of Aboriginal names. He suggested that Aboriginal names for *Dasyurus* species could be applied to domestic cats.

Another unexpected implication from this research is the extent of confusion and imperfect knowledge about the geographical limits of *Dasyurus* species. This is clearly evident when the distribution of each of the four species is plotted on the same map (Fig. 1). This map implies that the extent of overlap between *D. hallucatus* and *D. geoffroii* may have originally been more extensive in Western Australia and Northern Territory. Records in Table 2 of black and white morphs of 'native cats' in New South Wales as far west as Bourke are certainly referable to *D. viverrinus*, which is the only *Dasyurus* species known to exhibit this dimorphism (K. Morris, pers. comm.) This species may thus have overlapped more extensively with *D. geoffroii* than is indicated on modern maps (as summarised in Fig. 1). Such a great extension in geographical range should not be seen as surprising. Increased interest in historical ecological research has revealed that other mammal species were much more wide-ranging in Australia than indicated by specimens lodged in museums (Burbidge *et al.* 1988; Menkhurst 2011).

Each of the four recommended names (Chuditch *D. geoffroii*; Digul *D. hallucatus*; Bindjulang *D. maculatus*; and Luaner *D. viverrinus*) is linguistically accurate. They should be pronounced with the stress on the first syllable. I endorse the continued usage of quoll as a suitable common noun equivalent to *Dasyurus*. These recommended names do not of course restrict usage of other Aboriginal names by Aboriginal people.

### Acknowledgements

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### Notes

<sup>1</sup> These statistics include proper nouns (e.g. Parma Wallaby) but exclude names that are used as common nouns, such as dunnart, bettong, kangaroo,

potoroo, quoll, wallaby, and wombat that are preceded by an adjective (e.g. Red-necked Wallaby).

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